Johnston, Mrs. E S [re son's position as Commanding Officer of 67th Battery] Oct. 1916

(66)

as he was concerned - when this appointment was made he was Adjutant in the 12th Brigade and if you had told him then that there was an objection to his appointment on account of his not being a graduate of this University - he I am sure would have withdrawn and would have gone overseas with that Brigade - My son has worked hard and conscientiously - he is only twenty - I am a widow with all my sons in khaki one ~~has~~ has been at the front

Petawawa
Oct 21st 1916

Dear President Falconer

I understand that you are responsible for the action of the Minister of Militia in depriving my son Capt E P Johnston of the Command of the 67th Battery - I consider he has been treated with unfairness and injustice - in having this position taken from him without any warning or cause whatever as far

almost a year - surely as his brother I am entitled to some consideration all I want is that my son is treated with fairness & I ask you to use your influence with the Minister and have him appointed Commander of the 69th Battery where there is a vacancy. I am sure if you have influence enough with the Minister to take this away from my son you can have him placed in another and as a Christian and a gentleman you will repair the great injustice you have done my son & do to others as you would have them do to you - I am grieved & hurt beyond words by the treatment my dear son has received

Yours Truly
E S Johnston

P.S. My son has no knowledge whatever that I am writing this letter - as the time is so short - he having been ordered overseas next Saturday I hope you will immediately

Wire the Minister - I
am returning to Toronto
Monday night my address
is 48 Lyt 4 Spadina Gardens
Spadina Road - I shall
anxiously await word
from you - please do
help me - I know I am
not asking too much -

E L J

S87

69 ST. GEORGE STREET
TORONTO

Oct 23. 1916.

Dear Mr. Johnston.

I have just received your letter, but am sorry that I cannot undertake to do what you ask. It is true that I went to Ottawa last Monday and secured from the Minister of Militia his promise to appoint Lieutenant W. Wright as commanding Officer of Battery No 67 (University of Toronto). It should not have been necessary for me to take all that trouble, but ever since I heard to my great astonishment in the end of July that Lieutenant Wright had been passed over and that your son – an undergraduate in Arts and quite a young man – had without any knowledge on our part been placed

in command, I have been put to great inconvenience in getting this injustice rectified. Your Son should not have accepted such a position without inquiring into the circumstances. He fulfilled in no way the terms on which we secured the establishment of the battery as a University unit.

When I went to Ottawa all I asked for was that Wright should be given the promotion that he deserved. Him I know; your Son I do not know sufficiently well to recommend for the command of a battery. He may be an excellent officer. I hope that he is. It is however for his superior officers who know him in this capacity to recommend him for promotion. It would be unjustifiable for me who cannot testify as to these qualities to urge his appointment. If I were to do so I should be doing what I so often hear it said that others do, urge promotions as personal favours - and if I did so I should justly be reproached.

Much as I regret to have to refuse your request I am constrained to do so because I do not know enough about your qualifications to speak of it, and in any case his action in voluntarily taking the position of Lieutenant in the way he did does not predispose me in his favour.

Yours sincerely

Wm. Peterson.

October 24th, 1916

Mrs. Johnston,

Apartment 8,

Spadina Gardens, Toronto.

Dear Mrs. Johnston:

I have just received your letter, but am sorry that I cannot undertake to do what you ask. It is true that I went to Ottawa last Monday and secured from the Minister of Militia his promise to appoint Lieutenant A. Wright as commanding officer of Battery No. 67 (University of Toronto). It should not have been necessary for me to take all that trouble, but ever since I heard to my great astonishment, in the end of July that Lieutenant Wright had been passed over and that your son, an undergraduate in Arts and quite a young man, had without any knowledge on our part been placed in command, I have been put to great inconvenience in getting this injustice rectified. Your son should not have accepted such a position without inquiring into the circumstances. He fulfilled in no way the terms on which we secured the establishment of the battery as a University Unit.

When I went to Ottawa all I asked for was that Wright should be given the promotion that he deserved. Him I know; your son I do not know sufficiently well to recommend for the command of a battery. He may be an excellent officer. I hope that he is. It is however for his superior officers who know him in this capacity to recommend him for promotion. It would be unjustifiable

for me who cannot testify as to these qualities to urge his appointment. If I were to do so I should be doing what I so often hear it said that others do,- urge promotions as personal favours- and if I did so I should justly be reproached.

I am therefore constrained to refuse your request because I do not know enough about your son's qualifications, and in any case his action in taking the position in our battery last summer in the way he did does not predispose me in his favour.

Yours sincerely,

President.